



OFFICIAL RESPONSES TO VENDOR QUESTIONS

FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS/EARLY SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS PROGRAM PLANNING

RFP-2019-DBH-03-FIRST

No.	Question	Answer
1.	Pg 5, Section 1.3, Contract Period Q1) <i>What is the anticipated start date of the contract?</i> Q2) <i>Do you expect the initial contract period to be more than 12 months?</i>	Q1 & Q2) Contract Period is as follows: SFY 2019: begins upon approval of Governor and Executive Council through June 30, 2019; SFY 2020 – July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 SFY 2021 – July 1, 2020 through September 2020
2.	Pg 6, Section 2.1, NH DHHS Division of Behavioral Health Background, Subsection 2.1.4 Q3) <i>What subset of the population with ESMI are experiencing FEP?</i>	There is no available data at this time. The assumption is that this will emerge during the course of the contracted activities.
3.	Pg 7, Section 3.1, Scope of Services, Subsection 3.1.2 Stakeholder Engagement, Paragraph 3.1.2.1. Q4) <i>Do the key stakeholders need to indicate commitment to participating in the program planning project at the time the proposal is submitted and prior to funding?</i>	No, this may be achieved post-contract execution keeping in mind that there will be program implementation expectation dates. Including letters of support in your proposal would be beneficial.
4.	Pg 8, Q5: The question posed to the vendor is, <i>“How will you work with stakeholders to ensure the approved statewide public awareness campaign plan is executed?”</i>	The public awareness campaign refers to making the public aware of the importance and availability of early intervention services to individuals experiencing ESMI/FEP as stated in Section 1.1 Purpose and Overview of the RFP. The anti-stigma campaign occurs during phase II of the project.



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	<p>We assume the public awareness campaign refers to making the public aware of the importance and availability of early intervention services to individuals experiencing ESMI/FEP as stated in section 1.1 Purpose and Overview of the RFP. However, section 3.3.2.1.5 on page 10 refers to an anti-stigma campaign.</p> <p><i>Q5) Can you clarify what the public should be made aware of by the campaign?</i></p>	<p>The anti-stigma campaign occurs as part of the program implementation outreach efforts. The goal of this will be to increase the understanding of mental health concerns and decrease stigmatizing language, reactions, thoughts, etc. often connected to those diagnosed with mental illnesses.</p>
5.	<p>Pg 9 Section 3.2 Scope of Services, Subsection 3.2.1, Paragraph 3.2.1.2: We assume this refers to providing education, training, and technical assistance to stakeholders to ensure that everyone understands the ESMI/FEP model and is in agreement that the selected model will eventually be implemented statewide. Providing education, training, and technical assistance to actually implement a model would require that we already know what model will come out of this process which has not yet been determined.</p> <p><i>Q6) Can you clarify whether the education, training, and technical assistance provided to stakeholders will need to include the specific training and technical assistance needed to actually implement the model or</i></p>	<p>This contract includes education, training, and technical assistance to stakeholders. It lays out a foundation plan for a statewide program. The stakeholder group must include potential providers.</p>



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	<i>whether our understanding is correct?</i>	
6.	<p>Pg 9 Section 3.2 Scope of Services, Subsection 3.2.1, Paragraph 3.2.1.3: Our understanding is that the selected ESMI/FEP model would not yet be implemented and available during the initial contract period. Thus, we are concerned that executing a statewide public awareness campaign to ensure individuals and individual supports are aware of services available to them is counterproductive when the services are not yet available.</p> <p><i>Q7) Can you clarify what is desired regarding executing a statewide public awareness campaign?</i></p>	<p>This statewide public awareness campaign is not meant to only focus on the developing model, it is a larger scope campaign to ensure NH citizens are aware of early intervention needs and benefits. It's assumed a statewide services model would begin to be available toward the end of Phase II.</p>
7.	<p>Pg 9 Section 3.2 Scope of Services, Q6 This question requested the vendor's proposed work plan that includes a realistic time line for Phase I and Phase II, within four (4) months of the contract effective date. Include dates, key activities and responsible staff that ensures project completion within four (4) months of the contract effective date.</p> <p><i>Q8) Is the entire project, including Phase 1 and Phase 2, expected to be completed within 4 months of the contract effective date, or is the successful bidder expected</i></p>	<p>The final work plan for the entire project should be completed within four (4) months.</p> <p>Phase 1 is expected to be completed within the first four (4) months of the project.</p> <p>Phase II is the remaining time of the contract thereafter.</p>



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	<i>to finalize the dates, key activities and responsible staff to ensure completion of the project within 4 months of the contract effective date?</i>	
8.	<p>Pg 9 Q8 There are various ways to incentivize fidelity to a model (e.g., value-based payments) that would depend, in part, on the model selected and the state's desire and ability to provide incentives. It is difficult to devise a plan to use incentives to promote fidelity to a model without knowing what the model is and what resources will be available to provide incentives. We assume decisions regarding the use of incentives will be made during the planning period once the model is selected in collaboration with the state. We could provide a general discussion of incentivizing evidence-based practices based on fidelity scores.</p> <p><i>Q9) Can you clarify what specifically is desired in the proposal regarding a plan for the use of incentives to promote fidelity to the selected model?</i></p>	<p>The response should include a discussion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • program incentives and their value; and • how incentives would be planned, funded, and awarded.
9.	<i>Q10) How many people are currently being served in NH's community mental health system?</i>	In 2018, 45,424 individuals were served – all ages included.
10.	<i>Q11) What is the population of individuals between the ages of 18 and 65 currently</i>	Precise data relating to psychosis and/or psychotic symptoms would be available upon establishment of valid diagnostic criteria.



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	<i>served in the community mental health system with a primary diagnosis of psychosis who meet the certification criteria for this RFP?</i>	According to a report required by SAMHSA, 47% of adults served in the Community Mental Health system were determined to have a Severe Mental Illness by the definition provided in He-M 401.
11.	<i>Q12) How does the State intend to implement and sustain the practice after the conclusion of the grant period?</i>	Mental Health Block Grant funds set aside for this purpose and general funds will be budgeted to sustain the program to be implemented based on the preliminary work provided by this contractor. Following program establishment, insurance billing for services and programs would support the program, with DHHS oversight and support.
12.	<i>Q13) Are there any funding restrictions?</i>	All expenditures must be in accordance with state and federal guidelines and the budget approved as part of the contract.
13.	<i>Q14) Are all ESMI/FEB services reimbursable under private and public insurance?</i>	The contractor should plan to design a program to ensure insurance reimbursement to the fullest extent possible.
14.	<i>Q15) Are there any page limitations for the narrative, and any certain font that we should use?</i>	No page limitations; professional fonts are advised, Arial-12 is preferred.
15.	<i>Q16) Will you accept letters of support and/or commitment from partners who are not subcontractors, and if so, where would you like these included?</i>	Letters of support are welcomed. Please attach them to the narrative.